

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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Bohemian Border Area
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. To improve security the west Bohemian border area has been divided into the following zones:
 - a. The forbidden zone, which has a width of from 1 km to 8 km. No one is permitted to live there except SNB members and essential workers such as gamekeepers and forest laborers.
 - b. Beyond this forbidden zone, the border zone which is up to 20 km from the boundary. Entry is allowed only to those persons who have permits from the SNB district headquarters for the districts in which they live as well as clearance from the border districts to be entered. All unreliable Germans have been removed to the interior or to Western Germany, and only reliable Czech Communists have remained in the area.
2. The dividing line between the forbidden zone and the border zone consists of a road, about 500 m wide, which runs parallel with the boundary. This line is guarded by reinforced SNB units and is very difficult to cross.
3. SNB members have received additional equipment. Besides sub-machine guns and pistols, they have been armed with hand grenades and flares. Patrols consisting of 3 to 6 men walk along the roads and through the woods. There are also permanent guards who are stationed in well-camouflaged trenches and shelters and guards on motorcycles. During the night guards are reinforced.
4. In the Furth im Wald area, however, it proved difficult to divide the border region because it was inhabited solely by Czechs. Therefore, the forbidden zone is not as wide here as elsewhere along the west Bohemian border, and the border zone is only 1 or 2 km from the boundary line.

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Next Review Date: 2008

